

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

10

INFORMATION

TOPIC Alcohol Use on State Park Beaches

The following is information regarding alcohol use on State park beaches. Excessive alcohol consumption and all its related problems by young adults are detracting families from enjoying beaches in the Gull Point Complex at the Great Lakes and in Lake Macbride State Park near Solon. The cities that manage beaches on the Okoboji Lakes all prohibit the use of alcohol by their visitors. The Corps of Engineers prohibits the use of alcohol on the beaches it manages on Coralville Reservoir. State Parks in both these areas have the only beaches at which the consumption of alcohol is allowed. As a result, these beaches take on the atmosphere and appearance not consistent with the family friendly image State parks desires to have. Problems at our beaches on Okoboji Lakes is concentrated on Fourth of July holiday. Excessive drinking and public partying have become normal park use every weekend at Lake Macbride State Park. While alcohol consumption occurs at all state park beaches, it has elevated to a serious concern only at the Gull Point Complex and Lake Macbride.

Staff will provide information to the Commission on this subject. The intent of the information and subsequent discussion by commissioners is to consider a change to administrative rules in the near future to prohibit the use of alcohol at these beaches, including nearby parking lots and surrounding park grounds.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division

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